

ORIGINAL

FILED IN OPEN COURT  
U.S.D.C. - Atlanta

JUL 09 2018

**GUILTY PLEA and PLEA AGREEMENT**

United States Attorney  
Northern District of Georgia

By: AMIE M. BROWN, Clerk  
Deputy Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
ATLANTA DIVISION  
CRIMINAL NO. 18-CR-157

The United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia ("the Government") and Defendant Amie M. Brown enter into this plea agreement as set forth below in Part IV pursuant to Rule 11 (c)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. Amie M. Brown, Defendant, having received a copy of the above-numbered Information and having been arraigned, hereby pleads GUILTY to Count 1.

**I. ADMISSION OF GUILT**

1. The Defendant admits that she is pleading guilty because she is in fact guilty of the crimes charged in Count 1.

**II. ACKNOWLEDGMENT & WAIVER OF RIGHTS**

2. The Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, she is giving up the right to plead not guilty and the right to be tried by a jury. At a trial, the Defendant would have the right to an attorney, and if the Defendant could not afford an attorney, the Court would appoint one to represent the Defendant at trial and at every stage of the proceedings. During the trial, the Defendant would be presumed innocent and the Government would have the burden of proving her guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. The Defendant would have the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her. If the Defendant

wished, she could testify on her own behalf and present evidence in her defense, and she could subpoena witnesses to testify on her behalf. If, however, the Defendant did not wish to testify, that fact could not be used against her, and the Government could not compel her to incriminate herself. If the Defendant were found guilty after a trial, she would have the right to appeal the conviction.

3. The Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, she is giving up all of these rights and there will not be a trial of any kind.

4. By pleading guilty, Defendant also gives up any and all rights to pursue any affirmative defenses, Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial motions that have been filed or could have been filed.

5. The Defendant also understands that she ordinarily would have the right to appeal her sentence and, under some circumstances, to attack the conviction and sentence in post-conviction proceedings. By entering this Plea Agreement, the Defendant may be waiving some or all of those rights to appeal and to collaterally attack her conviction and sentence, as specified below.

6. Finally, the Defendant understands that, to plead guilty, she may have to answer, under oath, questions posed to her by the Court concerning the rights that she is giving up and the facts of this case, and the Defendant's answers, if untruthful, may later be used against her in a prosecution for perjury or false statements.

### **III. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PENALTIES**

7. The Defendant understands that, based on her plea of guilty, she will be subject to the following maximum and mandatory minimum penalties:

#### **As to Count 1**

- a. Maximum term of imprisonment: 20 years.
- b. Mandatory minimum term of imprisonment: None.
- c. Term of supervised release: 0 year(s) to 3 years.
- d. Maximum fine: \$250,000, due and payable immediately.
- e. Full restitution, due and payable immediately, to all victims of the offense(s) and relevant conduct.
- f. Mandatory special assessment: \$100.00, due and payable immediately.
- g. Forfeiture of any and all proceeds from the commission of the offense, any and all property used or intended to be used to facilitate the offense, and any property involved in the offense.

8. The Defendant understands that, before imposing sentence in this case, the Court will be required to consider, among other factors, the provisions of the United States Sentencing Guidelines and that, under certain circumstances, the Court has the discretion to depart from those Guidelines. The Defendant further understands that the Court may impose a sentence up to and including the statutory maximum as set forth in this paragraph and that no one can predict her exact sentence at this time.

9. REMOVAL FROM THE UNITED STATES: The Defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to her immigration status if she is not a citizen of the United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are removable offenses, including the offense to which the Defendant is pleading guilty. Indeed, because the Defendant is pleading guilty to this offense, removal is presumptively mandatory. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding, however, and the Defendant understands that no one, including her attorney or the district court, can predict to a certainty the effect of her conviction on her immigration status. The Defendant nevertheless affirms that she wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that her plea may entail, even if the consequence is her automatic removal from the United States.

#### **IV. PLEA AGREEMENT**

10. The Defendant, her counsel, and the Government, subject to approval by the Court, have agreed upon a negotiated plea in this case, the terms of which are as follows:

##### **Dismissal of Counts**

11. The Government agrees that, upon the entry of the Judgment and Commitment Order, any and all remaining counts in the above-styled case still pending against Defendant shall be dismissed pursuant to Standing Order No. 07-04 of this Court and to Rule 48(a) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. The Defendant understands that the Probation Office and the Court may still

consider the conduct underlying such dismissed counts in determining relevant conduct under the Sentencing Guidelines and a reasonable sentence under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a).

#### **No Additional Charges**

12. The United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia agrees not to bring further criminal charges against the Defendant related to the charges to which she is pleading guilty. The Defendant understands that this provision does not bar prosecution by any other federal, state, or local jurisdiction.

#### **Sentencing Guidelines Recommendations**

13. Based upon the evidence currently known to the Government, the Government agrees to make the following recommendations and/or to enter into the following stipulations.

##### **Acceptance of Responsibility**

14. The Government will recommend that the Defendant receive the two-level adjustment for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Section 3E1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines, and the additional one-level adjustment if the offense level is 16 or higher. However, the Government will not be required to recommend acceptance of responsibility if, after entering this Plea Agreement, the Defendant engages in conduct inconsistent with accepting responsibility. Thus, by way of example only, should the Defendant falsely deny or falsely attempt to minimize Defendant's involvement in relevant offense conduct, give conflicting statements about Defendant's involvement, fail to pay the special

assessment, fail to meet any of the obligations set forth in the Financial Cooperation Provisions set forth below, or participate in additional criminal conduct, including unlawful personal use of a controlled substance, the Government will not be required to recommend acceptance of responsibility.

**Right to Answer Questions, Correct Misstatements,  
and Make Recommendations**

15. The parties reserve the right to inform the Court and the Probation Office of all facts and circumstances regarding the Defendant and this case, and to respond to any questions from the Court and the Probation Office and to any misstatements of fact or law. Except as expressly stated elsewhere in this Plea Agreement, the parties also reserve the right to make recommendations regarding application of the Sentencing Guidelines. The parties understand, acknowledge, and agree that there are no agreements between the parties with respect to any Sentencing Guidelines issues other than those specifically listed.

**Right to Modify Recommendations**

16. With regard to the Government's recommendation as to any specific application of the Sentencing Guidelines as set forth elsewhere in this Plea Agreement, the Defendant understands and agrees that, should the Government obtain or receive additional evidence concerning the facts underlying any such recommendation, the Government will bring that evidence to the attention of the Court and the Probation Office. In addition, if the additional evidence is sufficient to support a finding of a different application of the Guidelines, the

Government will not be bound to make the recommendation set forth elsewhere in this Plea Agreement, and the failure to do so will not constitute a violation of this Plea Agreement.

### **Sentencing Recommendations**

#### **Judicial Economy**

17. Based on the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), the parties agree to recommend that the Defendant receive a one-level downward variance at sentencing. This variance is predicated on the Defendant's expeditiously entered plea of guilty and the resulting conservation of limited judicial and prosecutorial resources.

#### **Specific Sentence Recommendation**

18. The Government agrees to recommend that the Defendant be sentenced at the low end of the adjusted guideline range.

#### **Restitution**

19. The Defendant agrees to pay full restitution to the Clerk of Court for distribution to all victims of the offense(s) to which he is pleading guilty and all relevant conduct, including, but not limited to, any counts dismissed as a result of this Plea Agreement. The Defendant understands that the amount of restitution owed to each victim will be determined at or before sentencing, but agrees that the total of such restitution is at least \$459,207.28 dollars. The Defendant also agrees to cooperate fully in the investigation of the amount of

restitution, the identification of victims, and the recovery of restitution for victims.

### **Financial Cooperation Provisions**

#### **Special Assessment**

20. The Defendant understands that the Court will order her to pay a special assessment in the amount of \$100.

#### **Fine/Restitution - Terms of Payment**

21. The Defendant agrees to pay any fine and/or restitution imposed by the Court to the Clerk of Court for eventual disbursement to the appropriate account and/or victim(s). The Defendant also agrees that the full fine and/or restitution amount shall be considered due and payable immediately. If the Defendant cannot pay the full amount immediately and is placed in custody or under the supervision of the Probation Office at any time, she agrees that the custodial agency and the Probation Office will have the authority to establish payment schedules to ensure payment of the fine and/or restitution. The Defendant understands that this payment schedule represents a minimum obligation and that, should Defendant's financial situation establish that she is able to pay more toward the fine and/or restitution, the Government is entitled to pursue other sources of recovery of the fine and/or restitution. The Defendant further agrees to cooperate fully in efforts to collect the fine and/or restitution obligation by any legal means the Government deems appropriate. Finally, the Defendant and her counsel agree that the Government may contact the Defendant regarding the



collection of any fine and/or restitution without notifying and outside the presence of her counsel.

#### **Financial Disclosure**

22. The Defendant agrees that Defendant will not sell, hide, waste, encumber, destroy, or otherwise devalue any such asset worth more than \$10,000 before sentencing, without the prior approval of the Government. The Defendant understands and agrees that Defendant's failure to comply with this provision of the Plea Agreement should result in Defendant receiving no credit for acceptance of responsibility.

23. The Defendant agrees to cooperate fully in the investigation of the amount of restitution and fine; the identification of funds and assets in which she has any legal or equitable interest to be applied toward restitution and/or fine; and the prompt payment of restitution or a fine.

24. The Defendant's cooperation obligations include: (A) fully and truthfully completing the Department of Justice's Financial Statement of Debtor form, and any addenda to said form deemed necessary by the Government, within ten days of the change of plea hearing; (B) submitting to a financial deposition or interview (should the Government deem it necessary) prior to sentencing regarding the subject matter of said form; (C) providing any documentation within her possession or control requested by the Government regarding her financial condition and that of her household; and (D) fully and truthfully answering all questions regarding her past and present financial condition and

that of her household in such interview(s); and (E) providing a waiver of her privacy protections to permit the Government to access her credit report and tax information held by the Internal Revenue Service.

25. So long as the Defendant is completely truthful, the Government agrees that anything related by the Defendant during her financial interview or deposition or in the financial forms described above cannot and will not be used against her in the Government's criminal prosecution. However, the Government may use the Defendant's statements to identify and to execute upon assets to be applied to the fine and/or restitution in this case. Further, the Government is completely free to pursue any and all investigative leads derived in any way from the interview(s)/ deposition(s)/ financial forms, which could result in the acquisition of evidence admissible against the Defendant in subsequent proceedings. If the Defendant subsequently takes a position in any legal proceeding that is inconsistent with the interview(s)/ deposition(s)/ financial forms—whether in pleadings, oral argument, witness testimony, documentary evidence, questioning of witnesses, or any other manner—the Government may use the Defendant's interview(s)/ deposition(s)/ financial forms, and all evidence obtained directly or indirectly therefrom, in any responsive pleading and argument and for cross-examination, impeachment, or rebuttal evidence. Further, the Government may also use the Defendant's interview(s)/ deposition(s)/ financial forms to respond

to arguments made or issues raised sua sponte by the Magistrate or District Court.

**Recommendations/Stipulations Non-binding**

26. The Defendant understands and agrees that the recommendations of the Government incorporated within this Plea Agreement, as well as any stipulations of fact or guideline computations incorporated within this Plea Agreement or otherwise discussed between the parties, are not binding on the Court and that the Court's failure to accept one or more of the recommendations, stipulations, and/or guideline computations will not constitute grounds to withdraw her guilty plea or to claim a breach of this Plea Agreement.

**Limited Waiver of Appeal**

27. LIMITED WAIVER OF APPEAL: To the maximum extent permitted by federal law, the Defendant voluntarily and expressly waives the right to appeal her conviction and sentence and the right to collaterally attack her conviction and sentence in any post-conviction proceeding (including, but not limited to, motions filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255) on any ground, except that the Defendant may file a direct appeal of an upward departure or upward variance above the sentencing guideline range as calculated by the district court. Claims that Defendant's counsel rendered constitutionally ineffective assistance are excepted from this waiver. The Defendant understands that this Plea Agreement does not limit the Government's right to appeal, but if the Government initiates a

direct appeal of the sentence imposed, the Defendant may file a cross-appeal of that same sentence.

### **Miscellaneous Waivers**

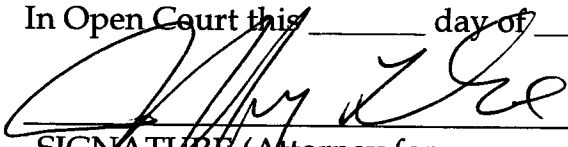
#### **FOIA/Privacy Act Waiver**

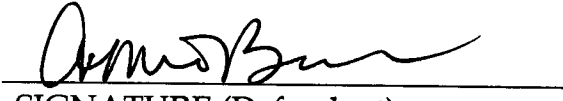
28. The Defendant hereby waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including, without limitation, any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a.

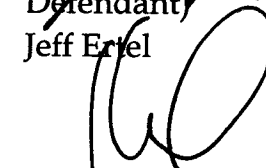
No Other Agreements


29. There are no other agreements, promises, representations, or understandings between the Defendant and the Government.

In Open Court this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

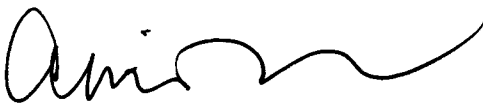
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE (Attorney for  
Defendant)  
Jeff Ertel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE (Defendant)  
Amie M. Brown

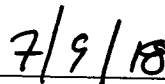
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE (Assistant United States Attorney)  
Kamal Ghali

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE (Approving Official)  
Stephen H. McClain

I have read the Indictment against me and have discussed it with my attorney. I understand the charges and the elements of each charge that the Government would have to prove to convict me at a trial. I have read the foregoing Plea Agreement and have carefully reviewed every part of it with my attorney. I understand the terms and conditions contained in the Plea Agreement, and I voluntarily agree to them. I also have discussed with my attorney the rights I may have to appeal or challenge my conviction and sentence, and I understand that the appeal waiver contained in the Plea Agreement will prevent me, with the narrow exceptions stated, from appealing my conviction and sentence or challenging my conviction and sentence in any post-conviction proceeding. No one has threatened or forced me to plead guilty, and no promises or inducements have been made to me other than those discussed in the Plea Agreement. The discussions between my attorney and the Government toward reaching a negotiated plea in this case took place with my permission. I am fully satisfied with the representation provided to me by my attorney in this case.

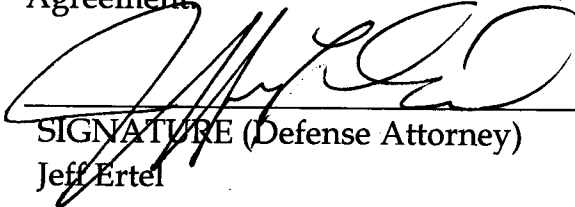


SIGNATURE (Defendant)  
Amie M. Brown



DATE

I am Amie M. Brown's lawyer. I have carefully reviewed the charges and the Plea Agreement with my client. To my knowledge, my client is making an informed and voluntary decision to plead guilty and to enter into the Plea Agreement.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE (Defense Attorney)  
Jeff Ertel

7/9/18  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Amie M. Brown

\_\_\_\_\_  
State Bar of Georgia Number

Filed in Open Court

This \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Statement of Special Assessment Account

This statement reflects your special assessment only. There may be other penalties imposed at sentencing.

ACCOUNT INFORMATION	
CRIMINAL ACTION NO.:	18-CR-157
DEFENDANT'S NAME:	Amie M. Brown
PAY THIS AMOUNT:	\$100

Instructions:

1. Payment must be made by **certified check** or **money order** payable to:  
Clerk of court, U.S. District Court  
**\*personal checks will not be accepted\***
2. Payment must reach the clerk's office within 30 days of the entry of your guilty plea
3. Payment should be sent or hand delivered to:  
Clerk, U.S. District Court  
2211 U.S. Courthouse  
75 Ted Turner Drive S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
(Do Not Send Cash)
4. Include defendant's name on **certified check** or **money order**.
5. Enclose this coupon to insure proper and prompt application of payment.
6. Provide proof of payment to the above-signed AUSA within 30 days of the guilty plea.